CALFED Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee Levees and Habitat Subcommittee

Friday, July 11, 2003 Room 435, Resources Building Draft Meeting Notes

1. CALFED BDPAC Levee Subcommittee Co-Chair Report

Tom Zuckerman chaired this meeting. He reported that the governor has completed appointments to the Bay-Delta Authority. It remains to be seen how the Authority and the BDPAC are going to relate to each other. Chris Stevens, the new Counsel for the Bay-Delta Authority, commented that this shows commitment to the future of the Authority as a big-picture, coordinating and accountability function. The charter is still being worked out since federal charter has expired. The Authority is working on setting up a governance structure. Tom commented that some consultants are suspending their work or continuing it on a voluntary basis since the federal charter expired. The contracting process is a top priority.

At the last BDPAC meeting the question was raised to the Science Program about inaction on levees issues that were posed to them by the DLHAC. Discussion followed concerning the revisiting of the questions that have already been presented to the Science Program by this group, and of preparing new questions for them.

2. CALFED Multi-Year Work Plan Report

Patricia Fernandez of the Bay-Delta Authority reported that the comments on the draft work plan that she has received indicate that there is interest in these science questions. Discussion of how to present the science questions followed. Marci Coglianese suggested that we invite someone from the Science Program to come to a meeting of this Subcommittee to address it. Patricia distributed a handout (#3, attached) of the new and old science questions that she has received. The work plan has to be finalized by July 17. It will be presented to the Management Group on July 22 and to the Authority on August 14.

At the last management meeting, it was noted that the Ecosystem Restoration Program work plan claimed to have given the levee program \$85 million. A handout (#4, attached) of the ERP work plan excerpt was distributed. Discussion followed of how the projects overlap and what the Levees Program should claim credit for in the work plan.

July 16 is the deadline for comments to Patricia.

Tom reported that funding for the Delta Protection Commission was preserved by the Legislature, in spite of the Legislative Analyst Office recommendation that the DPC should not get any more funding. The Legislature adopted language to the effect that the commission will continue with half of the funding held back until the Resources Secretary submits a report on the DPC to the Joint Budget Committee.

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Lynn O'Leary of the Authority made the suggestion that the Levees Program work plan include a paragraph stating that review of the Science questions should be put in the year 4 agenda.

Marci noted that we should add topics to future agendas that are of interest to members of other subcommittees, in order to encourage their attendance at our meetings.

The group decided to move the August and September meetings to the second Fridays: August 8 and September 12.

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m. The next meeting will be held on August 8, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., in Room 435 in the Resources Building.